

## SURF REALIZATION FELLOWSHIP

THE SURF REALIZATION FELLOWSHIP IS DEDICATED TOWARD EXPANDING HORIZONS AND GETTING IN TOUCH WITH A MORE COMPLETE WORLD. DEVOTEES LIVE TO SURF AND SURF TO LIVE. ENERGY ORBITS IN TUNE WITH THE YIN RHYTHMS OF LIFE, WAKING TO THE ENDLESS MARVELS AND MYSTERIES OF THE SEA. ENROLLING IN THE UNIVERSITY OF THE OCEANS IS AN APPEALING, COMPELLING AND FULFILLING EFFORT. SURFERS MAKE UP A LARGE PART OF THE ALUMNI. OFTEN FOR THEM WHAT BEGINS AS A RECREATIONAL PASTIME SOON BECOMES A LIFETIME ENDEAVOR.

THE LURE OF THE SURF IS A POWERFUL ATTRACTION. SCHOOL IS IN SESSION AT EVERY GO-OUT. THE PRESSURE TO LEARN IS MOSTLY PRIVATE, AND ADVANCEMENT IS COMPLETELY UP TO THE INDIVIDUAL. THE LESSONS ARE SIMPLE AND PROFOUND. DEEPER MEANING GRADUALLY BECOMES APPARENT AS CONFUSION AND MISUNDERSTANDING ARE PEELED AWAY LIKE THE LAYERS OF AN ONION.

SWEET MORSELS OF KNOWLEDGE ARE UNVEILED IN EACH SURF SESSION. THE SURFER NEEDS ONLY TO CLEAR HIS CLUTTERED MIND SO HE MAY RECEIVE THESE TIDBITS. THE FIRST 20 YEARS OF SURFING ARE JUST TO SEE IF THE INTEREST IS REAL. GOOD RIDES, PEER ADORATION, SURF CONTEST RESULTS AND FREE SURFBOARDS ARE MERE TEMPORAL DISTRACTIONS. THE ESSENCE IS IN BEING AS ONE WITH THE OCEAN, THE CONSCIOUSNESS OF A VAST DEPTH WITHOUT SEPARATION. TO BE AS ONE WITH THE OCEAN IS TO BE WITHOUT A SEPARATE SELF.

SOMETIMES SUCH FULL IMMERSION JUST HAPPENS, AS IF BY LUCK, CHANGE, OR HAPPY ACCIDENT. THE DEVOTEE LEARNS TO RECOGNIZE THOSE MOMENTS AS GIFTS, TO REVEL IN THEM, AND TO BE GRATEFUL FOR THEM HOWEVER AND WHENEVER THEY MAY COME. FIRST TO ACCEPT AND THEN TO PURSUE THIS ONENESS CONSCIENTIOUSLY IS THE ULTIMATE GOAL OF SURFING. THE PATH REQUIRES DEDICATION, DETERMINATION, DEVOTION AND GREAT FAITH. UNDERSTANDING DAWNS

WHEN THE SURFER IS ABLE TO CARRY THE ESSENCE OF IMMERSION UP THE BEACH AND OUT INTO THE DRY WORLD.

THE SURF REALIZATION FELLOWSHIP BEGAN AS AN EFFORT TO TURN ON AND TUNE IN SURFERS TO THE WONDERS OF WHITE WINTER WORLD. SURFING THE SNOW ON A SNOWBOARD, RIDING FROZEN WAVES CREATED BY THE SAME STORMS THAT MAKE THE SURF, IS A NATURAL EXPANSION OF THE SURFING LIFESTYLE. THE MOUNTAINS ARE A WORLD OF WONDERS SIMILAR TO THE SEA, ANOTHER PLACE FOR FEELING FREE. EVEN THOUGH THE SEA IS YIN AND THE MOUNTAINS YANG, A PERSON CAN SEEK AND FIND A BALANCE OF HARMONY WHILE ENJOYING BOTH WORLDS.

BEFORE LONG THE SRF MESSAGE BECAME WIDELY APPARENT. MANY OCEAN DEVOTEES HOOKED UP WITH SNOWBOARDING. A BALANCE BETWEEN THE YIN OF OCEAN AND YANG OF MOUNTAIN WAS ACHIEVED THROUGH A GROWTH IN NUMBERS TO FORM A GENUINE FELLOWSHIP OF RIDERS.

THE DIRECTION OF SRF ALTERED AS WE LEANED INTO OUR FIRST BIG BOTTOM TURN. WITH THE EDGE SET AND THE WAVE AHEAD LOOKING GOOD, IT APPEARS THAT THE REAL SRF MISSION IS DIRECTED TOWARD UNDERSTANDING THOSE SPECIAL MOMENTS THAT OCCUR WHILE SURFING OR SNOWBOARDING. THESE ARE THE BRIEF BUT STARTLING MOMENTS THAT SNEAK UP SEEMINGLY OUT OF NOWHERE WHEN PADDLING BACK OUT AFTER A GOOD RIDE AND SEEING A BEAUTIFUL WAVE THAT EVERYONE ELSE MISSED FEEL OFF EMPTY AND PERFECT. ON THE YANG SIDE IS THAT FIRST SIGHT ON A BLUE BIRD MORNING AFTER A BIG SNOWFALL THE DAY BEFORE, SEEING THE MOUNTAIN BLANKETED WITH FRESH, NEW SNOW SPARKLING LIKE DIAMONDS IN THE LIGHT OF ALPINE-GLOW.

THE SIGHT OF EITHER OF THESE WILL TAKE A PERSON'S BREATH AWAY AND LEAVE THAT PERSON SPEECHLESS. THESE GLIMPSES ARE GIFTS, OPPORTUNITIES FOR INTRINSIC

UNDERSTANDING THAT NOT ONLY IS THE PERCEIVED MOMENT WHOLLY STUNNING BUT MORE, IT IS RELIGIOUS. SPIRITUALLY, A WARM GLOW SETTLES IN PLACE BECAUSE THE MOMENT WITNESSED IS, IF NOT THE SIGHT OF GOD, THEN AT LEAST HIS WORK AS WE ARE BLESSED TO SEE IT. THE CRYSTAL OF JUST THIS MOMENT OPENS A WINDOW IN THE MIND ALLOWING THOUGHTS OF A DEEP AND PROFOUND NATURE TO ENTER LIKE TRACES OF TRANQUILITY LEFT TRACKLESS ON THE SNOW, OR A WORD WRITTEN BY A FINGER ON THE SURFACE OF AN OCEAN.

THAT THESE MOMENTS HAPPEN SEEMINGLY BY CHANCE OUT IN THE SURF OR DEEP IN THE SNOW IS NO REASON WHY THEY CAN'T BE SAVED AND BROUGHT BACK INTO SERVICE WHEN NEEDED TO OVERCOME SOME OBSTACLE IN LIFE, TO SOLVE A PROBLEM, OR MERELY TO BE RESURRECTED AND SAVORED ONCE AGAIN. THIS IS WHAT SKF IS ABOUT AND WHERE WE ARE GOING WITH IT. WE APPLY THE LESSONS LEARNED AND WONDERS DISCOVERED IN SURF AND SNOWBOARD ADVENTURES TOWARD IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE AROUND AND WITHIN US.

SKF IS SUNDAY SCHOOL AT THE CHURCH OF THE OPEN SKY. THERE AREN'T ANY REPORT CARDS. INSTEAD THERE ARE BIGGER SMILES AND A SHARED UNDERSTANDING FOR THOSE WHO SEEK IT.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jerry Lopez". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "J" and "L".